

# The Computer Support Newsletter

March/April 2002

<http://msa.ars.usda.gov/computerhelp>

email news: [rkaczanowski@ars.usda.gov](mailto:rkaczanowski@ars.usda.gov)

## Computer Support Newsletter Audience

A note to our many readers.....

This newsletter is published mainly to inform MSA employees of Information Technology (IT) news and happenings. Much of the newsletter will relate to the local user base. If you are NOT at Stoneville, some of the contained items may not be relevant to you.

## Online Payroll/Retirement Info

Did you know that you can easily access most of your USDA payroll information securely online? Here are a few helpful websites:

<http://www.tsp.gov>

<http://www.nfc.usda.gov>

<http://www.employeeexpress.com>

On your first visit to each of the websites, you will have to sign-up or register. A password will then be mailed to your home address.

Upon receiving the password, you can then securely login to view your payroll, retirement, and other financial and personal information.

You can even elect to stop receiving paper copies of you statements since the same information is available online and suitable for printing at any time! Way to go eGov!

## Scam Emails?

Since 9/11, there have been many questions regarding email from middle-east countries. We have received similar email such as:

Dear Professor :

I am Mr. XXXX from Iran. I am Studying in area of Farm Power and Machinery Engineering as a Postgraduate Student in Tabriz University. My Thesis is about automatic depth control of a seed planter based on moist sensing. I would be very grateful if you could send me some information in that case. Thank you because of yours generosity to give me this information.

Another popular email scam that is popular is the Nigerian Money Scam. Care should be taken before responding to any email/letter/telephone call from unknown sources. You should check with your supervisor or research leader if you have any questions.

Remember, the best defense is to delete these emails since there is no way to selectively block incoming email due to the nature of Internet email. We can block ALL email from certain addresses, but we can NOT block all email from many sources.

## Element K

Now Element K is even more convenient to use. Do you only have one phone line? Do you have a slow connection to the Internet? Do you want to do courses but NOT be connected to the Internet the entire time? Maybe you have a time limit on your ISP. Well now you can download a great number of the Element K courses to your computer, take

the courses offline, and then upload the completed courses to update your transcript. To be able to take the courses offline you need the Element K offline media player. You can download this player from the element K site. If you have problems while using the Element K site, you can reach an Element K Agent Monday - Friday at 1-800-409-0030. You can also CHAT online to an Agent 24 hours per day / 7 days a week. The CHAT can be accessed from the Element K web site ([www.elementk.com](http://www.elementk.com)).

## Computer TIP:

An even easier way to create a shortcut to the desktop is to go to the file folder (and or file), but then right click on the folder...go down to "send to" and then to "Desktop (create shortcut)." A shortcut to the folder is automatically created on the desktop for you...no dragging necessary and no resizing of the window required.

## Windows XP is here! So is Windows 2000!

If you are upgrading (or buying new) computers to XP and still need to run NetBeui, you can add the protocol using these instructions:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;Q301041>

For Windows 2000, NetBeui can be added using the "normal" protocol installation procedures.

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## Comments and Contacts:

**Comments:** email your comments to:

[rkaczanowski@ars.usda.gov](mailto:rkaczanowski@ars.usda.gov)

**Old Issues:** Old issues of The Computer

Support Newsletter can be found at:

<http://msa.ars.usda.gov/computerhelp>